RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 15th March, 2000/25 Phalguna, 1921 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Violation of Service Rules by MES Engineer-in-Chief

*281. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in MES Engineer-in-Chief (E-in-C) although not designated as Head of Department as per Delegation of Financial Rules (DFR), is issuing postings of SAG grade and above ranked officers without approval of the Ministry (Cadre Controlling Authority) in violation of statutory service rules;

(b) if so, has E-in-C been specifically delegated powers to issue such postings; and

(c) if not, whether any redressal is contemplated for exercising powers without authority?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Engineer-in-Chief is the head of the Military Engineer Services (MES) organisation as per Regulations for Military Engineer Services promulgated by the Central Government. He is exercising administrative powers of transfer and posting in respect of all civilian officers, including officers of Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) working in MES, in that capacity, although he is not the cadre controlling authority.

The whole matter of administration and management of civilian officers cadre of MES, including officers of IDSE is being looked into in the light of the recommendations of the Vth Central Pay Commission on the subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chunni Lal. First supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, I want to raise a point...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, not in Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, generally, I do not disrupt the House. This time I am not raising a matter of controversy. All the hon. Members will bear with me if you could give me one minute...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing during Question Hour. Question Hour is inviolable. Yes, Chaudhary Chunni Lal.

श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी: सभापति महोदय, यह मिलिटेरी इंजीनियर सर्विस में दो सोर्स से इंजीनियर आते हैं। एक तो कोर ऑफ इंजीनियर सर्विस के हैं और एक है आई.डी.एस.ई. के जो यूनियन पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन से सेलेक्ट होते हैं। जब कोर ऑफ इंजीनियर के एस.ए.जी. ग्रेड में आते हैं तो उनकी ट्रांस्फर-पोस्टिंग मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ डिफेंस करती है और जो एस.ए.जी. ग्रेड में यूनियन पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन के द्वारा सेलेक्ट होकर के आते हैं, उनकी ट्रांस्फर-पोस्टिंग इंजीनियर-इन-चीफ करता है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि ऐसा क्यों और किस आधार पर?

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज़: सभापति जी, टांस्फर-पोस्टिंग के जो सरकारी नियम हैं, उन नियमों के आधार पर यह काम हो रहा है।

श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया है कि होल मैटर एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव मेनेजमेंट का है और यह पांचवें वेतन आयोग के आधार पर किया जा रहा है। मेरा दूसरा सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल यह है कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित करेंगे जिसमें पांचवें वेतन आयोग की संस्तुतियां लागू हो जाएंगी और कब तक लागू हो जाएंगी?

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज़: अति शीघ्र हम पूरा करेंगे।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, in fact, I am reiterating the point which the previous questioner has made that the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission have been under the consideration of the Government for quite a long period of time. Therefore, can the hon. Minister give some broad indication of time-frame and tell this House as to when the Government would be in a position to take the decision?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I do agree that this matter has been pending for a very long time. I would assure the House that in the shortest possible time, we shall have this done.